



# *Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership*

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## Family Self-Sufficiency Program



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**mbhp**   
metropolitan boston housing partnership

# FSS Basics

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- ❑ One to Seven Year Voluntary Program
- ❑ Available to MBHP HCVP Participants; No Other Eligibility Requirements
- ❑ Focuses on Providing Support and Asset Development



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# Requirements

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- ❑ Maintain Regular Contact with Advisor
- ❑ HCVP Good Standing
- ❑ All Household Members Must be Welfare Free for 12 Consecutive Months Prior to Graduation
- ❑ Obtain and/ or Maintain Suitable Employment
- ❑ Meet Goals Outlined in Individual Training and Service Plan (ITSP)

# Services

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- FSS Advisors assist with:
  - Benefit Screening
  - Improving Credit Scores
  - Resume Writing
  - Creating Household Budgets
  - Completing the FASFA
  - College Applications
  - Enrolling in ESL and GED Classes
  - Addressing barriers such as; child care, transportation, substance abuse, and domestic violence
  - Legal Referrals
  - And More . . .

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# Outreach to Potential Participants

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- ❑ Community Development Corporations
- ❑ Neighborhood Meetings
- ❑ Recent Graduates
- ❑ Voucher Recertification

# Participant Overview (n-327)

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- 68 Elderly/Disabled – 21%
- 93 No Personal Earnings – 28%
- 171 w/Children Age < 12 – 52%
- 164 Single Parent – 50%

# Escrow Basics

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- ❑ Escrow Credit is based on an increase in the Adjusted Monthly Income (AMI)
- ❑ Tenant rent portion increases due to increased in earned income; tenant will likely escrow
- ❑ Account is credited monthly until there is a subsequent change in income

# Enrollment and Escrow

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- FY 2012 enrollment increased by 22% to 303 participants. (Now 327)
- FY 2012 graduates:
  - \$14,117 average increase in income.
  - \$7,596 average escrow account.

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# Goals

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- ❑ 500 Active Participants by June 2015
- ❑ Emphasis on Families who live in the Fairmount Corridor of Boston
- ❑ Leverage Additional Federal Funds
- ❑ Increase Family Assets and Investment in Local Neighborhoods